

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ACCRA 00370 161633Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 MCT-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02

SCS-06 CU-04 USSS-00 HA-05 OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 PC-01 CA-01

OMB-01 /095 W

-----022928 161652Z /46

P R 161446Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1799

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 0370

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PINS, GH

SUBJ: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS MAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

SUMMARY. STUDENTS CLASHED WITH POLICE ON JANUARY 13 DURING CELEBRATIONS OF SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF REGIME'S 1972 COUP. ACCRA WAS CALM OVER WEEKEND BUT POTENTIAL REMAINS FOR FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS HERE AND IN KUMASI AND CAPE COAST AS STUDENTS PROTEST HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG'S MISMANAGEMENT OF ECONOMY AND HIS PRESUMED PLANS TO STAY ON AS PRESIDENT UNDER A UNION GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN BOTH MORNING AND AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 13, STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF GHANA'S LEGON CAMPUS (ON OUTSKIRTS OF ACCRA) DEMONSTRATED AGAINST ACHEAMPONG REGIME. HAND-LETTERED SIGNS WERE UP EARLIER IN THE WEEK ON CAMPUS, READING "RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS" AND "UNIGOV (UNION GOVERNMENT) IS NOT THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ACCRA 00370 161633Z

ANSWER." DETAILS OF CLASHES ARE STILL UNCLEAR BUT IT APPEARS STUDENTS PLANNED TO BURN ACHEAMPONG IN EFFIGY; THEY AND POLICE DREW UP IN OPPOSING LINES; ROCKS WERE THROWN AND POLICE, SUPPORTED BY ARMORED CARS, WADED INTO STUDENT RANKS AND LATER INTO DORMITORIES, BASHING HEADS WITH ZEAL. SEVERAL STUDENTS WERE INJURED AND IT IS RUMORED ONE MAY HAVE BEEN

KILLED, BUT THIS IS NOT CONFIRMED. CAMPUS BUILDINGS SUFFERED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE AND A NUMBER OF INSTRUCTORS, INCLUDING SOME FOREIGNERS (NON-AMERICAN) WERE BEATEN BY POLICE. POLICE REPORTEDLY WERE ANGERED BECAUSE STUDENTS HAD CAPTURED A LONE POLICEMAN GUARDING BANK ON CAMPUS AND WERE HOLDING HIM HOSTAGE. POLICE-MAN WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED BU STUDENTS KEPT HIS FIREARM AND 12 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION. POLICE SEARCHED CARS LEAVING CAMPUS JANUARY 14-15 LOOKING FOR WEAPON BUT ATTORNEY-GENERAL KORENTENG-ADDOW TOLD AMBASSADOR THEY HAD NOT FOUND IT AS OF MORNING JANUARY 16.

2. IN A SEPARATE INCIDENT MORNING JANUARY 13, ACCORDING TO WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT DAVID OTTAWAY, A GOON SQUAD DISRUPTED THE NORMALLY SEDATE CONTINENTAL HOTEL, SEARCHING FOR DEMONSTRATORS AND DEMANDING THAT HOTEL PATRONS AFFIRM THEIR SUPPORT FOR UNION GOVERNMENT. AT LEAST TWO OF THE SQUAD WERE WEARING SHIRTS BEARING THE NAME OF GHANA PEACE AND SOLIDARITY COUNCIL, A LEFTIST ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS BEEN ONE OF THE STRONGEST BACKERS OF UNION GOVERNMENT AND WHOSE THUGS VIOLENTLY BROKE UP AN AN(I-UNION GOVERNMENT RALLY LAST OCTOBER. A KENYAN JOURNALIST WAS SLIGHTLY INJURED IN THIS INCIDENT. OTTAWAY WAS ALSO ON LEGON CAMPUS IN THE AFTERNOON AND CONFIRMED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ACCRA 00370 161633Z

THAT POLICE HAD USED CONSIDERABLE FORCE AGAINST STUDENTS. HE AND ANOTHER FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT NARROWLY ESCAPED BEING BEATEN UP THEMSELVES. WE EXPECT HIS STORIES WILL REFLECT THESE EXPERIENCES.

3. JANUARY 14 DAILY GRAPHIC HAD NO MENTION OF LEGON TROUBLES BUT REPORTED STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN KUMASI BARRICADED THE MAIN ACCRA-KUMASI ROAD AND HARRASSED SUPPORTERS OF UNION GOVERNMENT. COMMISSIONER FOR INFORMATION YARNEY TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT A TRUCK CARRYING COPIES OF THE GHANAIAAN TIMES WAS DAMAGED BY STUDENTS; DRIVER WAS BEATEN UP AND PAPERS DESTROYED. STUDENTS ALSO DAMAGED A MOVIE VAN FROM GOG INFORMATION SERVICES AND A CAR CARRYING A SENIOR POLICE OFFICER ENROUTE TO KUMASI TO PARTICIPATE IN ANNIVERSARY PARADE. POLICE TOOK QUICK ACTION TO STOP STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES.

4. ATTORNEY GENERAL TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST ALSO DEMONSTRATED AGAINST ACHEAMPONG REGIME ON JANUARY 13.

5. REMAINDER OF ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS WENT OFF ON SCHEDULE. ACHEAMPONG BROKE NO NEW GROUND IN A LENGTHY RADIO/TV ADDRESS TO NATION JANUARY 12 OR AT PARADE SPEECH JANUARY 13. ADDRESSING ARMED FORCES AND POLICE AT A STADIUM AFTER PARADE, HE CALLED ON THEM TO BE EXTRA VIGILANT BECAUSE ENEMIES OF THE REVOLUTION HAD NOW RESORTED TO PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE AND WERE TRYING TO PLAY OFF ENLISTED MEN AGAINST OFFICERS AND THE MILITARY AGAINST THE POLICE. (WE TAKE THIS AS A GENERAL WARNING AND NOT AS A SPECIFIC RESPONSE TO STUDENT UNREST.) ACHEAMPONG MET HUNDREDS OF GUESTS AT MASSIVE RECEPTION AT THE CASTLE EVENING OF JANUARY 13. SECURITY PRECAUTIONS THERE WERE NORMAL AND HEAD OF STATE APPEARED TO BE HIS USUAL IMPASSIVE SELF. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ACCRA 00370 161633Z

6. AT THIS RECEPTION, WE HAD A CHANCE TO TALK WITH S.O. LAMPTEY, SPECIAL AIDE TO ACHEAMPONG AND ACCRA REGIONAL CHAIRMAN OF PEACE AND SOLIDARITY COUNCIL. HE DENIED COUNCIL MEMBERS HAD BEEN IN ANY WAY INVOLVED IN INCIDENT AT CONTINENTAL HOTEL AND PROMISED TO GIVE AN INTERVIEW TO OTTAWAY JANUARY 14. LAMPTEY ALSO SAID HE WOULD ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENT DENYING ANY PARTICIPATION BY COUNCIL.

7. COMMENT: WE HAD PRIOR INFORMATION THAT STUDENTS WERE PLANNING DEMONSTRATIONS TO MAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS BUT WE DID NOT EXPECT POLICE WOULD REACT SO FORCEFULLY OR THAT PEACE AND SOLIDARITY COUNCIL ACTIVISTS WOULD BE TURNED LOOSE. AT THIS POINT, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO THREATEN REGIME OR ACHEAMPONG'S PLANS FOR A TRANSITION TO UNION GOVERNMENT. WE THINK THE GOG WILL EASILY BE ABLE TO WEATHER THIS SQUALL. FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS, HOWEVER, ARE QUITE POSSIBLE SINCE STUDENTS ARE ANGRY AND FAIRLY WELL ORGANIZED. AS OF JANUARY 16, MOST STUDENTS HAD LEFT LEGON CAMPUS AND CLASSES WILL BE VERY LIGHTLY ATTENDED - IF HELD AT ALL - FOR MOST OF THIS WEEK. ACADEMIC COUNCIL IS MEETING TODAY TO DECIDE ON WHAT TO DO. ATTORNEY GENERAL CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR JANUARY 16 THAT GOG DOES NOT PLAN TO CLOSE UNIVERSITIES AT THIS TIME. SMITH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ACCRA00370  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780023-0307  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ACCRA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780161/aaaabznd.tel  
**Line Count:** 163  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** ad9e63e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3772504  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS MAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS SUMMARY. STUDENTS CLASHED WITH POLICE ON JANUARY 13 DURING CELEBRATIONS OF SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF REGIME  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, PINS, GH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/ad9e63e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014